GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4996
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
IRRIGATION CAPACITY
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has assessed that an additional 50 Million hectares of irrigation potential is required to be created to meet the irrigation requirement by the year 2050; and

(b) if so, the efforts made/proposed to be made in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) The ultimate irrigation potential of the country through major, medium and minor irrigation projects has been assessed as 139.89 million hectare. At the end of Eighth Five Year Plan (1996-97), 89.56 million hectare irrigation potential has been created.Thus additional irrigation potential of 50.33 million hectare is still to be harnessed.

(b) During the Ninth Plan, the target for creating additional irrigation potential is 17.05 million hectare and an outlay of Rs.52350 crore has been earmarked for major & medium and minor irrigation projects. Moreover, for expeditious completion of ongoing major & medium irrigation and multi-purpose projects, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996- 97. With effect from 1999-2000, minor irrigation schemes of North-Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa are also covered under AIBP.During 1996-97 to 1999-2000, Central Loan Assistance amounting to Rs.4031.97 crore has been provided to 25 States in respect of 112 major & medium irrigation projects and 1783 minor irrigation schemes.